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**Remarks**

Claim 24 has been amended to remove certain limitations and move them to new claim 29, and to add certain limitations supported at, e.g., page 4, lines 12-16, page 6, lines 24-25, page 8, line 29 through page 9, line 10, and page 13, line 29 to page 14, line 10. New claims 25-34 have also been added and are supported at, e.g., page 11, lines 22-26, page 12, lines 18-24, page 15, lines 22-25, page 16, line 19 through page 20, line 11 and page 18, lines 12-14. Following entry of this amendment, claims 24-34 will be pending in the application.

**Rejection of Claim 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,712,481 (Parker et al.), on grounds that:

> "As to claim 24, Parker discloses a flexible film [a *deformable/flexible film 27, see fig. 3, col. 5, lines 20-29, and col. 6, lines 6-12]* having a substantially flat lower surface and a non-planar upper surface having finely-shaped projections with a generally trapezoidal cross-section comprising riser, plateau and facet portions flanked by land portions *[figure 31 of Parker further discloses trapezoidal 129 comprising riser, plateau and facet, see col. 11, lines 5-27]*, wherein the facets have varied dimensions, pitch or angular orientation *[figures 16-30, and 32-38 of Parker further discloses changing other shapes or geometries, which may be used for light extracting deformities or said trapezoidal 129, see col. 11, line* 5-col. *12, line 5]* such that if the plateaus are laminated to the light output face of a substantially planar light guide having at least one light input face that supplies light to the guide, a viewing face *[Parker further discloses a liquid crystal display panel is a face* to *view images, see* col. *7, line 45—col. 8, line 5]*, and the light output face opposite the viewing face, the facets will reflect and thereby extract supplied light from the guide through the light exit face and the supplied light will be evenly distributed across the viewing face *[Parker further discloses in* col.12, *lines* 18--col.13, *line 7 for that claimed limitation]*." (see the Office Action at pages 2-3, numbered paragraph 4).

Reconsideration is requested. Parker et al. describe various light emitting panels and say that the panels may include light extracting deformities formed "in or on" one or more surface areas of the light emitting panel member (see e.g., the Abstract, col. 2, lines 43-46 and col. 13, lines 3-7). Parker et al.'s deformities may be in the form of projections (see e.g., col. 10, lines 12-14), depressions (see e.g., col. 10, lines 14-15) or a coating or surface treatment (see e.g., col. 5, lines 54-58).

Parker et al. do not discuss touch panels and some of the specialized problems that arise in their manufacture. As discussed by applicants in their Written Description at e.g., page 3, lines 12 – 25, frontlit touch panels typically employ two separately-fabricated parts, namely a touch panel component and a front light guide component. The touch panel component often is made from a heat-resistant flat glass panel that can survive application of an ITO layer. The front light guide component often is made from a molded plastic slab that would not survive application of an ITO layer, and which employs refractive optics to extract light from the guide. This approach thus uses two separate handleable parts each of which contributes to the overall thickness of the touch panel, employs a light guide component having an exposed structured surface that can be damaged during handling or assembly of the touch panel, and yields an assembled touch panel having an extra optical interface in the supplied light path and relying on refractive optics to extract supplied light from the guide. The flexible film of claim 24 can be laminated directly to a touch panel component to provide one or more of the advantages discussed at e.g., page 4, lines 12 – 15 and page 9, line 18 through page 10, line 16 such as reduced overall touch panel thickness, better resistance to damage during handling or assembly, and reduced light loss or better light distribution arising in part through the use of reflective optics.

Returning to Parker et al., it may help matters to concentrate on embodiments such as the structure shown in **Fig. 31**, reproduced below:

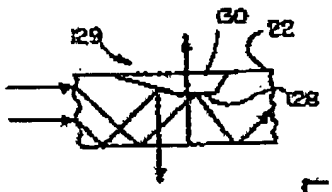


FIG. 31

and to discuss its depressions **130** in connection with the flexible panel embodiment referred to at col. 5, lines 25-27 and in claim 25, or with the separate sheet or film **27** referred to at col. 6, lines 6-12. Even if depressions **130** were to be formed in Parker et al.'s flexible panel embodiment or Parker et al.'s sheet or film **27**, the resulting structure would not have enclosed pockets or buried reflective facets as recited in claim 24. This will be so even if the panel or separate sheet or film is placed adjacent an LCD, e.g., as in the **Fig. 43** embodiment reproduced below:

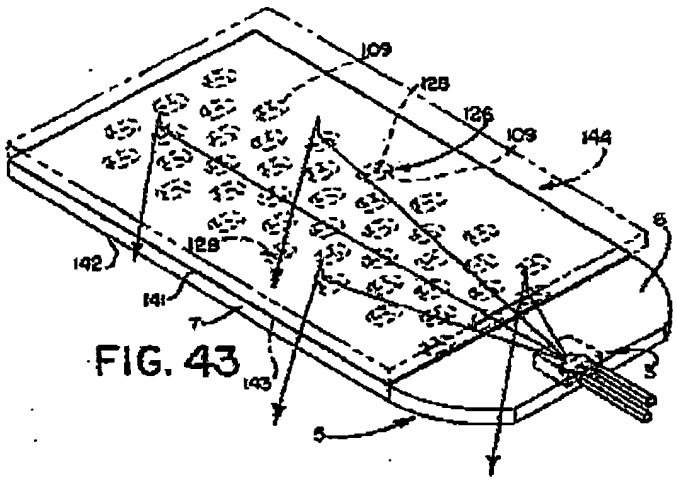


FIG. 43

If reflective optics are employed to distribute supplied light, then Parker et al.'s depressions would lie at the backside of an LCD/light guide assembly and would be exposed to air.

Parker et al. also do not disclose or suggest an embodiment with buried reflective facets and a layer of optically transparent adhesive on a plateau portion as recited in claim 24. Applicants note when saying so that Parker et al. discuss adhesive placement, e.g., at col. 7,

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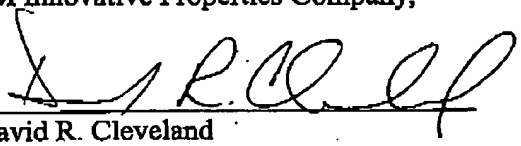
lines 50-65, and recommend against placing adhesive "over the entire surface or areas of the panel because of the difficulty in applying a uniform coating of adhesive to the panel". Parker et al. also refer to the possibility of using "adhesive over the entire surface (see e.g., col. 7, lines 62-65) but appear to be referring to the application of adhesive to the flat backside of their panel and not to the surface containing Parker et al.'s deformities.

Applicants accordingly request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claim 24 as being anticipated by Parker et al.

**Conclusion**

Applicants have made an earnest effort to address the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection, allowance of claim 24 and allowance of new claims 25-34 are requested. The Examiner is also requested to call the undersigned attorney if there are any questions regarding the application or this amendment or any suggestions concerning the claims.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
3M Innovative Properties Company,



January 16, 2007

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